

STATE OF TEXAS §  
COUNTIES OF ARANSAS §  
SAN PATRICIO AND NUECES §  
CITY OF ARANSAS PASS §

On this the 6th day of September, 2011 the City Council of the City of Aransas Pass convened in a Regular Meeting being open to the Public at the regular meeting place thereof in the City Hall and notice of said meeting giving the time, place, date and subject hereof having been posted and prescribed by Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code with the following attendance to wit constituting a quorum.

PRESENT: Tommy Knight Mayor  
Phillip Hyatt Mayor Pro Tempore  
James A. Mills Council Member  
Ross McElwee Council Member  
Vickie Abrego Council Member

ABSENT:

ADMINISTRATIVE  
PERSONNEL PRESENT: Allen Lawrence City Attorney  
Reggie Winters City Manager  
Yvonne Stonebraker City Secretary

ADMINISTRATIVE  
PERSONNEL ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Rickie Kilgore Fire Chief

OTHERS PRESENT: Donald Brummett, Michael & Sharon Godwin, Jim & Alpha Covington, Alvin & Shirley Berger, J. Smith, Ray Lopez, Tom & Dorothy Morse, Hope Comingore, Gordon McElvany, Phil & Nell Reynolds, Peggy, Frankie & Becky Gaydos, Katie Verhelst, R. Lindley and Barbara Conway, Fred Hoese, Dorsey Danielson, Peggy Godines and Becky Godines.

*There may have been others present who did not sign in.*

- 1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER.**  
  
Mayor Knight called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. on September 6, 2011.
- 2. **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES FLAG.**  
  
Council Member Abrego gave the invocation. Mayor Knight led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.
- 3. **CONSIDER AND ACT ON MINUTES OF AUGUST 15, AUGUST 22, AND AUGUST 29, 2011.**  
  
Mayor Pro Tem Hyatt made a motion to approve the minutes of August 15, August 22 and August 29, 2011. Council Member Mills seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
- 4. **SECOND PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE CITY OF ARANSAS PASS' PROPOSED 2011-2012 TAX RATE.**

Mayor Knight recessed the regular meeting and opened the Public Hearing at 7:01 P.M.

Ms. Nancy Moore stated she had read a copy of the City's 2010 budget and couldn't understand it.

Mr. Hoese stated the economy was not in great shape. He stated he paid 27.4% of his income toward ad valorem taxes of his rental property and that any Council Member voting for the tax hike will be actively opposed at the next election.

Mr. Moore spoke on his experiences of cutting overhead and his opposition on employee raises.

Ms. Tracy spoke about her rent house and the problems with the economy.

Mr. Walter Minnick stated he was against the city employee raises. He stated with the City going up on garbage rates, the citizens would be paying more for garbage than water.

Mayor Knight stated the City's garbage vendor, Allied Waste, increased their rates last year and the City did not. He stated Allied Waste was increasing their rates again this year and that is why the City was increasing theirs.

Mr. Minnick asked if there was anything the City could do to make changes and lower the rates.

Mayor Knight stated he would have City Manager Winters check with Allied Waste to see if their (Allied Waste) rates would change if they decreased garbage pick-up from 2 times a week to once a week.

Mr. Ray Lopez stated the City should look at having a possible cap on city employee wages. Mr. Lopez spoke on the tough economy, the tax rate increase of 14% and the decreased value of property.

Mr. Mike Godwin asked how many months out of the year the Aquatic Center is open.

City Manager Winters stated eight months out of the year.

Mr. Godwin spoke on how the City needed to plan for the future.

Ms. Dorsey Danielson spoke of the hardship on keeping her two rent houses rented. Ms. Danielson suggested some City employees going to a four day work week.

Mr. Tom Morse stated the City should go through the budget and looking for cuts instead of raising taxes 14%. Mr. Morse spoke against the city employee 3% raise increase.

Ms. Peggy Godiness spoke against the 14% tax rate increase.

Ms. Becky Godiness stated she was against the tax rate increase. She stated people were struggling with high food prices, gas prices and vehicle registration prices. She stated in the long run, the tax increase will hurt the City.

Mr. Hoese stated he had never given his employees a blanket pay raise. He stated he had only given merit raises. He stated merit raises would definitely change the attitudes of city employees.

Mayor Knight closed the Public Hearing at 7:34 P.M.

5. **CONSIDER AND ACT ON MR. JAI LOPEZ AND MR. JOSHUA BAIR ASSUMING CAPTAIN NORRIS MACHOST'S CONN BROWN HARBOR LEASE, d/b/a THE BAIT SHACK.**

Council Member McElwee made a motion to approve the request of Mr. Jai Lopez and Mr. Joshua Bair assuming Captain Norris Machost's Conn Brown Harbor Lease, d/b/a The Bait Shack. Mayor Pro Tem Hyatt seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

6. **CONSIDER AND ACT ON APPROVING THE REQUEST OF ST. MARY STAR OF THE SEA CATHOLIC CHURCH TO CLOSE SOUTH RIFE STREET BETWEEN WILSON STREET AND GOODNIGHT AVENUE ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2011 FROM 9:00 A.M. TO 8 P.M. FOR THEIR ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL.**

Council Member Mills made a motion to approve the request of St. Mary Star of the Sea Catholic Church to close South Rife Street between Wilson Street and Goodnight Avenue on Sunday, October 9, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. to 8 p.m. for their annual fall festival. Mayor Pro Tem Hyatt seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

7. **CONSIDER AND ACT ON CITY OF ARANSAS PASS FISCAL YEAR 2010-2011 BUDGET AMENDMENT.**

Finance Director Roddel stated there was \$60,000 earmarked for the Blossom Lift Station project. She stated the \$60,000 for the Blossom Lift Station project will not be needed until 2012. She stated she would like to use the \$60,000 earmarked for 2011 towards the roofing material clean-up at the City transfer station. She stated that was why a budget amendment was needed.

Council Member Mills made a motion to approve the City of Aransas Pass Fiscal Year 2010-2011 budget amendment. Council Member Abrego seconded the motion and the motion carried with Council Member McElwee voting no.

8. **CITIZEN'S COMMENTS.**

Ms. Moore stated an increase of nine cents (\$0.09) would bring in \$416,219.

Mayor Knight stated it would be more like \$416,820.

Ms. Moore stated she does not feel the nine cent (\$0.09) tax rate increase had been adequately addressed.

9. **ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING.**

Mayor Pro Tem Hyatt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Mills seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Knight adjourned the meeting at 8:01 PM.

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Tommy Knight, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Yvonne Stonebraker, City Secretary